

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 091517

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INFO DOD APR 17

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 05842

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: MARR, PFOR, UK, AV, SC, RQ

SUBJECT: TALKS ON DOG ISLAND

1. STATE, EMBASSY AND DOD REPS MET WITH COUNTERPARTS FROM BRITISH GOVERNMENT MORNING APRIL 16 TO DISCUSS US REQUEST FOR USE OF DOG ISLAND AS TARGET TRAINING FACILITY BY USN. CHARGE SPIERS CHAIRED US DELEGATION, WHILE BRITISH GROUP HEADED BY SIR DUNCAN WATSON, DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY AT FCO. AFTERNOON SESSION FOLLOWED ON MORE TECHNICAL LEVEL WITH DUFF (WEST INDIAN AND ATLANTIC DEPARTMENT) HEADING BRITISH SIDE, SPIERS ABSENT. MEETINGS SUCCESSFULLY ACCOMPLISHED MAIN PURPOSES OF BOTH SIDES: FOR US, AGREEMENT ON A JOINT BRITISH-US STATEMENT (SEPTEL) WHICH NOTES THAT DISCUSSIONS ARE GOING ON AND WHICH CAN BE GIVEN TO PUERTO RICANS; AND, FOR BRITISH, USE OF SAME STATEMENT WITH ANGUILLANS, PLUS INFORMATION CONCERNING TECHNICAL, ENVIRONMENTAL AND FINANCIAL ASPECTS OF US CONCEPTS WHICH BRITISH NEED TO DETERMINE SALEABILITY OF PROJECT TO ANGUILLANS AND ST. KITTIANS.

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PAGE 02 STATE 091517

2. BOTH SIDES AGREED THAT THIS STATEMENT IS MAXIMUM

THAT COULD BE EXPECTED AT THIS TIME AND ANTICIPATE IT
WILL SERVE PURPOSE OF SHOWING PUERTO RICANS AND
ANGUILLANS THAT USG AND HMG MAKING PROGRESS. AT SAME
TIME, STATEMENT WILL NOT PREJUDICE BRITISH ON SOVEREIGNTY
QUESTION. BRITISH

ANTICIPATE THAT SOME SOLUTION TO SOVEREIGNTY QUESTION
MUST BE FOUND WITHIN NEXT FEW MONTHS AND THAT IT PAR-
TICULARLY IMPORTANT OUR DOG ISLAND REQUEST NOT BECOME
CONTENTIOUS DURING THIS CRITICAL TIME.

3. DURING DISCUSSIONS ON TECHNICAL, ENVIRONMENTAL AND
FINANCIAL ASPECTS OF US CONCEPT, US PARTICIPANTS PROVIDED
MOST OF ANSWERS THAT BRITISH FEEL THEY NEED FOR FURTHER
DISCUSSIONS WITH ANGUILLANS AND ST. KITTIANS. THERE ARE,
HOWEVER, SEVERAL OUTSTANDING ITEMS, INCLUDING TYPE OF
AGREEMENT THAT WOULD BE PROPOSED, METHOD OF PAYMENT FOR
RENT AND FINANCING OF WATER AND ELECTRICITY PROJECTS,
THAT WILL HAVE TO BE RESOLVED.

4. PROGRESS MADE DURING THESE DISCUSSIONS WAS HIGHLY
SATISFACTORY TO BOTH SIDES. BRITISH NOW CONSIDERING
HOW TO APPROACH WEBSTER AND BRADSHAW AND ALSO WILL BE
PREPARING POSITION FOR MINISTERIAL LEVEL CONSIDERATION.
BRITISH UNDERTOOK TO OBTAIN FROM MINISTERS AUTHORIZATION
FOR DOD-SPONSORED CIVILIAN CONTRACTED ON-SITE SURVEY OF
DOG ISLAND TO DETERMINE ULTIMATE FEASIBILITY OF PROJECT.

5. DURING AFTERNOON MEETING BRITISH WERE ESPECIALLY
FORTHCOMING AND POINTED OUT THAT INITIAL ESTIMATES FOR
ELECTRIFICATION OF ANGUILLA WERE ENORMOUSLY EXAGGERATED
AND THAT FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS COULD BE MET AT MUCH
LOWER LEVEL OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE. BRITISH STUDY WILL
BE MADE AVAILABLE SOON. APART FROM CONCERN OVER
BRADSHAW/WEBSTER PROBLEMS YET TO BE RESOLVED, BRITISH
HAVE EVIDENTLY ADOPTED POSITIVE ATTITUDE TOWARDS PROPOSAL,
PROVIDED IT WILL NOT COST THEM ANY MORE THAN THEY NOW
OBLIGED TO SPEND TO UNDERWRITE ANGUILLAN BUDGET
DEFICIT.

6. FULL MEMCON WILL BE POUCHED.
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PAGE 03 STATE 091517

SPIERS

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